

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 L-03 USIE-00
INRE-00 SS-15 COME-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DEAE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00
NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 DOTE-00 EB-08 AGRE-00 FAA-00
/079 W

-----074104 180012Z /72

O 172342Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4334

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - DRAFT AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE COM-
PUTER SUPPORT

REF: STATE 193746

1. WE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE NECESSARY CONSULTATIONS
WITH STILL ANOTHER COMPUTER SPECIALIST, WITH THE DELAY
THAT WOULD RESULT FROM ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE SUCH A SPECIAL-
IST, PROGRAM HIS VISIT, BRIEF HIM ON THE WORK DONE THUS
FAR, AND AWAIT HIS FINDINGS. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS MES-
SAGE ADEQUATELY ADDRESSES THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN
REFTEL.

2. REFTEL STATES, "IT IS ESSENTIAL TO DETERMINE WHAT
DATA SHOULD BE GENERATED AND WHAT ITS ACTUAL AND POTEN-
TIAL USES WILL BE". WE HAD ASSUMED THAT PARAS (2),
(2A), (2B), AND (2C) OF 76 STATE 239062 (DATED SEPTEMBER
1976) ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED THIS POINT. CONSEQUENTLY,
RATHER THAN REPEAT BACK TO THE DEPARTMENT ITS OWN WORDS,
WE CITED THIS MESSAGE AS A REFERENCE IN OUR REQUEST.

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THE ONLY VARIANCES FROM THAT MESSAGE ARE THE SUBSTITU-
TION OF AN AIRCRAFT/VEHICLE LOOKOUT SYSTEM FOR A FIELD
INVENTORY SYSTEM (A NET SIMPLIFICATION) AND THE USE OF
AGRICULTURE RESOURCES RATHER THAN A SERVICE BUREAU
(A COST SAVING).

3. AS TO THE WISDOM OF TERMINALS AND REMOTE UNITS,

THOSE IN THE EMBASSY FAMILIAR WITH COMPUTER OPERATIONS RECALL THAT COMPUTER PROJECTS SUCCEED ONLY IF END-USERS HAVE READY ACCESS TO INPUT CURRENT DATA AND RETREIVE MATERIAL FROM STORAGE. GRANTED THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE OCCUPIES A 14 -STORIED BUILDING, AN ANNEX SEVERAL MILES AWAY, AND A HANGAR LOCATED AT THE AIRPORT, SEVEN TERMINALS IN MEXICO CITY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A BARE MINIMUM, NOT RPT NOT A COMPLICATION. SIMILARLY, A NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE FILE CAN CURRENT (THE ONLY SITUATION IN WHICH IT IS USEFUL), UNLESS THE MAJOR USERS ARE ABLE TO INPUT AND RETREIVE DATA ON A REAL-TIME BASIS. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS BEING REALISTIC, NOT EXTRAVAGANT, IN DESIGNING A SYSTEM WITH TERMINALS IN CULIACAN, GUADALAJARA, JUAREZ, NUEVO LAREDO, AND TIJUANA. WE BELIEVE A SMALLER SYSTEM WOULD GUARANTEE FAILURE, AND THEREFORE DID NOT RECOMMEND ONE.

4. WE AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ARE WELL AWARE THAT COMPUTER PROJECTS CAN, IF NOT PROPERLY CONTROLLED, DISRUPT RATHER THAN FACILITATE A PROGRAM. OUR DISCUSSIONS HAVE FOCUSED ON THIS ISSUE, AND WE HAVE, AS PARA TWO OF REFTEL SUGGESTS, PROCEEDED ON A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TOWARD ESTABLISHING FIRST AN OFFENDER DATA BASE, FOLLOWED IN TURN BY AIRCRAFT SPARE PARTS INVENTORY CONTROL AND VEHICLE/AIRCRAFT LOOKOUT FILES. WE HAVE NOT REPORTED THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MANY MEETINGS WE HAVE HAD ON THIS TOPIC BECAUSE WE FELT CONFIDENT THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT WE WOULD NOT RECOMMEND A PROJECT UNTIL WE WERE SATISFIED THAT THE PROJECT WOULD NOT DISRUPT A PROGRAM AS IMPORTANT TO THE USG AS MEXICO'S NARCOTICS EFFORT.

5. SIMILARLY, MEXICO 12344 NOTED THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS RECEIVING BIDS FROM POTENTIAL SOURCES OF LEASED TERMINALS COMPATIBLE WITH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE'S COMPUTER, BUT WE DID NOT LIST THE SPECIFIC NOMENCLATURE OF THE EQUIPMENT BEING CONSIDERED. THIS IS AN AREA IN WHICH WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT LOCAL TECHNICIANS ARE FULLY COMPETENT SINCE THE COMPUTER INDUSTRY HERE IS WELL DEVELOPED. IT IS IN THE VENDOR'S INTEREST TO SUPPLY APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT BECAUSE, IF THE SYSTEM DOES NOT WORK AS PLANNED, HE HAS NO HOPE FOR CONTINUED LEASE OR POSSIBLE PURCHASE CONTRACTS. LIKEWISE, THE VENDOR HIMSELF CAN BE RELIED UPON (AS BOTH STATE AND DEA TDY COMPUTER SPECIALISTS HAVE INFORMED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL) TO PROVIDE THE BASIC SOFTWARE REQUIRED TO OPERATE THE SYSTEM. NEVERTHELESS, THE BUDGET WE PROPOSED INCLUDED A MODEST SUM FOR "CONTINGENCIES" WHICH

WOULD PERMIT US TO REQUEST THE TDY SERVICES OF
APPROPRIATE SPECIALISTS IF UNFORESEEN PROBLEMS DO
OCCUR.

6. PARA FIVE OF REFTEL REQUESTS EMBASSY TO FURNISH ASAP
COPIES OF USG AND MEXICAN REPORTS ON THIS PROJECT. WE
HAD NOT FURNISHED COPIES OF REPORTS PREPARED BY STATE
AND DEA TDY COMPUTER SPECIALISTS BECAUSE WE ASSUMED THAT
THE DEPARTMENT COULD OBTAIN COPIES MORE QUICKLY IN
WASHINGTON. WE DO NOT HAVE COPIES OF ANY DETAILED RE-
PORTS THAT THE MEXICANS MAY HAVE PREPARED. WE DOUBT
THAT THE MEXICANS, WHO DO NOT FULLY SHARE THE AMERICAN
PROPENSITY TO ENGAGE IN WRITTEN PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS,

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DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13
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HAVE GENERATED SUCH PAPERS ON THIS PROJECT. HOWEVER,
WE ARE NOT ALARMED BY THIS "DEFICIENCY". NEITHER
THE INTRODUCTION OF SPRAY ACTIVITIES NOR THE CONSTRUCTION
OF HANGARS AT MEXICO CITY AND CULIACAN WERE PRECEDED
BY SUCH STUDIES. YET MEXICO NOW HAS THE WORLD'S MOST
EXPERIENCED GROUP OF PILOTS FOR AERIAL SPRAYING IN THE
MOUNTAINS AND BOTH HANGARS ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS. WE
KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT IT IS A MANAGEMENT COMMITMENT,
WHICH WE CLEARLY HAVE IN THIS CASE, AND NOT A PROJECT
PAPER THAT GUARANTEES SUCCESS. WE ALSO KNOW FROM RECENT
EXPERIENCE THAT WE WILL BE FULLY CONSULTED AS THE PRO-
JECT MOVES FROM PHASE TO PHASE, ALLOWING US AN OPPOR-
TUNITY TO GUIDE PROGRESS AND CORRECT ANY PROBLEMS WHICH
MIGHT DEVELOP.

7. PARA SIX OF REFTEL REQUESTS Q SYNOPSIS OF WHAT THE

ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS DONE IN THE WAY OF PLANNING AND PREPARATION. HE HAS DESIGNATED A GROUP TO WORK WITH DEA HERE TO DEVELOP INPUT AND OUTPUT FORMATS, HE HAS INFORMED HIS ZONE COORDINATORS (DURING THE RECENT COORDINATORS CONFERENCE) OF THE NEED TO COLLECT AND REPORT DATA IN A COMPUTER-COMPATIBLE MANNER. HE HAS PLACED PLANNING AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY ON THE CHIEF OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE OFFICE OF ORGANIZATION AND METHODS WHICH, HAVING SUPERVISED THUS FAR ALL OF THE COMPUTER BATCH-METHOD SERVICES OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, HAS A STAFF EXPERIENCED IN BATCH-PROCESSING OF COMPUTERIZED MATERIAL. HE HAS HIRED NINE ADDITIONAL ADP TECHNICIANS WITH EXPERIENCE IN REAL-TIME APPLICATIONS. HE HAS DESIGNED A MINIMUM-LEVEL SYSTEM TO SERVE THE NEEDS DESCRIBED IN PARA THREE OF MEXICO 12344 AND HAS SOLICITED BIDS FOR THE LEASING OF EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THAT SYSTEM. HE HAS REACHED AGREEMENT WITH THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE FOR TIME-SHARED ACCESS TO AGRICULTURE'S CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT. HE HAS WRITTEN TO THE EMBASSY FORMALLY REQUESTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO GET STARTED PROMPTLY.

8. WE HOPE THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION WILL PERMIT THE DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE THAT WE AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAVE COVERED ALL ESSENTIAL BASES AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL PROMPTLY CABLE AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED WITH PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AS PROPOSED IN MEXICO 12344. THOMPSON

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